

## INFORMATION ITEM

### **Delta Independent Science Board Update**

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**Summary:** Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB) Chair Dr. Steve Brandt will update the Council on current Delta ISB efforts, while Delta ISB Member Dr. Tracy Collier will share findings and recommendations from the recently completed water quality review on nutrients and chemical contaminants.

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#### **Background**

As mandated by the 2009 Delta Reform Act, the Delta ISB is responsible for reviewing the scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs that support adaptive management in the Delta. Findings and recommendations from the Delta ISB reviews can inform future updates and help guide the implementation of the Delta Plan and the Delta Science Plan.

The Delta ISB provides periodic updates to the Council about completed, current, and upcoming activities - the last update was at the Council's February 22, 2018 meeting.

#### **Completed Reviews**

Since February 2018, the Delta ISB has completed the following reviews (are available at <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/science-board/delta-isb-products>):

1. Water Quality Review: Chemical Contaminants and Nutrients (Attachment 1)  
This review focuses on contaminants and nutrients in the Delta, and on how findings have been variously used and neglected in decisions related to ecosystem health in the Delta. This review of water quality is based on responses to a questionnaire sent to government agencies and science programs, interviews with water quality specialists and users of water-quality data, relevant scientific publications, presentations observed in workshops and conferences, and public comments received on draft versions of the review.
2. Review of the Synthesis Papers for the Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment  
At the request of the Council, the Delta ISB provided comments on the synthesis papers used to inform the Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment. The Delta ISB focused its review on the relevance and completeness of the body of science, and whether the scientific findings support the Implications and Considerations at the end of each synthesis paper. The Delta ISB's comments were submitted to the Council in June 2018.

## **Current Reviews**

The Delta ISB is currently reviewing:

1. Delta Monitoring Enterprise: This review will look into how individual and large-scale monitoring programs in the Delta can be better coordinated, and how monitoring data can support the implementation of adaptive management and assessments of performance measures. The prospectus for this review can be found at <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/delta-isb-delta-monitoring-enterprise-prospectus-dated-4617>.
2. Interagency Ecological Program (IEP): This review will investigate how the structure of the IEP leads to the success of the program with respect to the coordination and organization of research, monitoring, modeling, and synthesis efforts to inform decision making and adaptive management. The prospectus for this review can be found at <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/delta-isb-prospectus-review-interagency-ecological-program-dated-12918>.
3. Water Supply Reliability: This review will focus on the science and methods available and employed to estimate and evaluate water supply reliability. The prospectus for this review can be found at <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/delta-isb-prospectus-water-supply-reliability-review-4318>.
4. Ecosystems: The Delta ISB is still working on a prospectus for this review, and it will likely focus on non-native species.

## **Fiscal Information**

Not applicable.

## **List of Attachments**

Attachment 1: Water Quality Science in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Chemical Contaminants and Nutrients (to be provided at the Council meeting)

## **Contact**

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